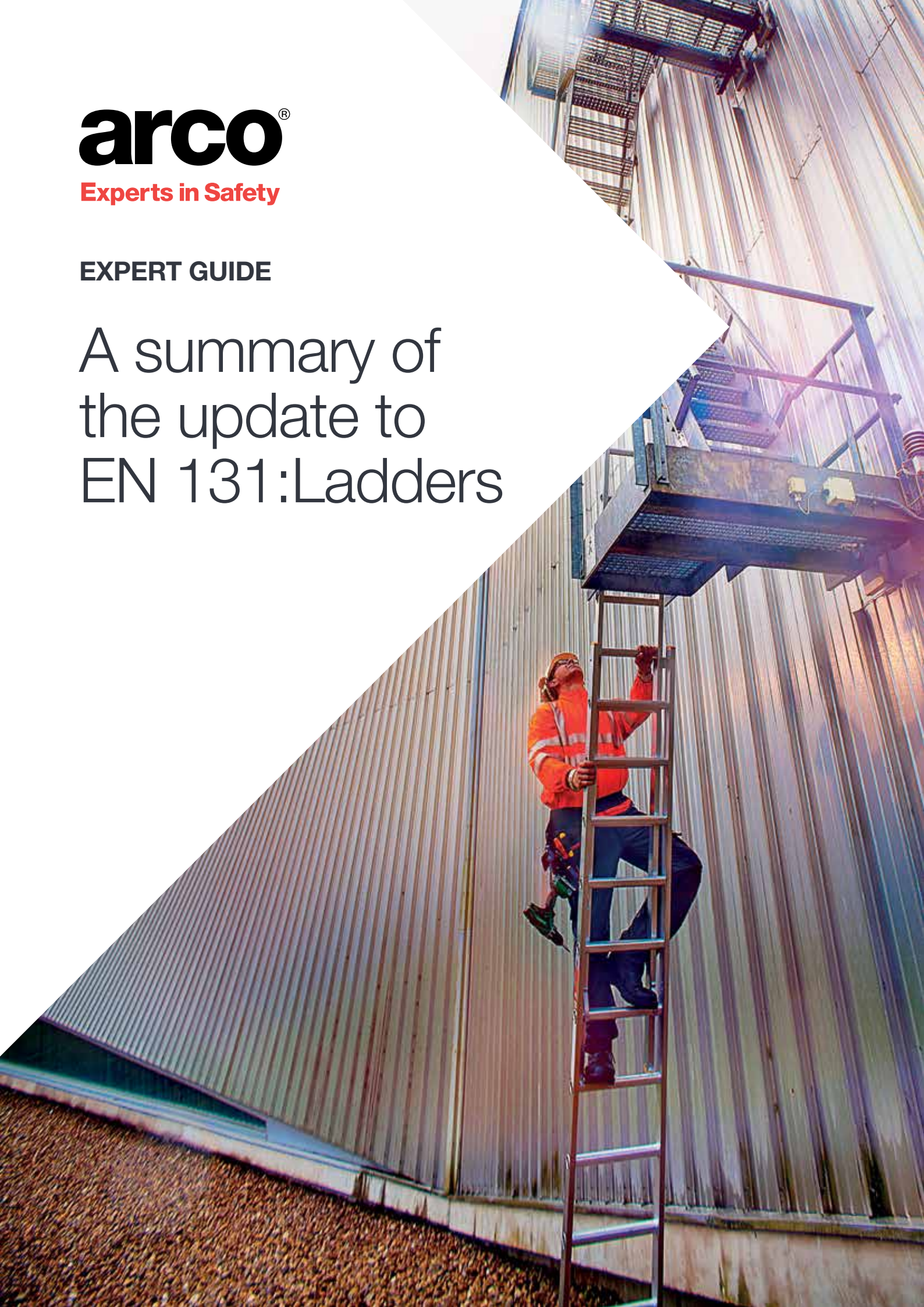


arco[®]
Experts in Safety

EXPERT GUIDE

A summary of the update to EN 131:Ladders





Arco is the UK and Ireland's leading safety company; our core purpose is to keep people safe at work.

We distribute a world-class range of over 170,000 branded and own brand products, including personal protective equipment, workwear, safety footwear, gloves, workplace safety and hygiene products.

Arco Professional Safety Services offer training, consultancy, rescue and site services and are market leader in working at height and confined space services.

As Experts in Safety, we help ensure workers go home safe every night. Our product and technical specialists advise on product selection and our sector specialists understand the hazards and issues of your industry.

We make it easy for you to keep your people safe. With a dedicated team in our customer engagement centre and a national network of retail stores you have access to the equipment you need, when you need it. Plus, our Support Solutions can assist you with eCommerce, bespoke garments, logistical help and more.

Arco is committed to providing safety equipment that is genuine and compliant with relevant standards and regulations. We have a five-step product assurance process supported by an independently accredited testing laboratory. Additionally, we are a member of the BSIF Registered Safety Suppliers Scheme.

Founded in 1884 and with traditional family values at the heart of the business, we pride ourselves on our ethical trading. In 2007 Arco was the first distributor in our industry to become a member of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) and in 2010 we became a member of Sedex, the Supplier Ethical Data Exchange. We are dedicated to our Corporate Social Responsibility programme and demonstrate this by supporting local communities and charities donating in excess of 1% of pre-tax profits annually.

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How the standards have changed

The regulations for portable ladders and steps have been published as a single British and European standard EN 131: Ladders, replacing BS 2037 and BS 1129.

Previously, domestic use and industrial use ladders came under different regulations. However, the European standard now simplifies this by covering all uses under one European standard: EN 131. The British version of this is BS EN 131.

The updated standard simplifies the buying and training process and includes two categories; EN 131 Professional (Industrial and trade) and EN 131 Non-Professional (domestic).

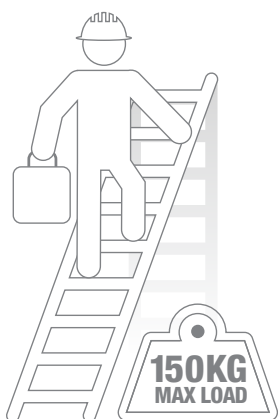
Overall, the standard will improve ladder safety, stability and durability.

EN 131 – One single ladder standard

The regulations have been updated to improve the safety of ladders, reduce ladder related accidents and make the process of selecting the right ladder straight-forward.



Key changes within EN 131



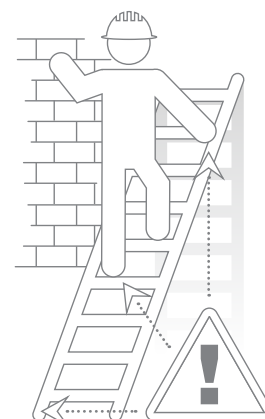
Minimum weight capacity of 150kg for all ladders

The revised standard now ensures all ladders, whether for professional or domestic use, have the same safe working load of 150kg.



Changes to dimensions for improved stability

Extension ladders over 3m to have a wider base to reduce slips and increase stability.



New requirements for ladder durability

The updated standard introduced new cycle durability tests as a way of checking product durability.

Key dates and what this means for you

Key Dates

- From January 2018, all new ladders and step ladders must be designed to adhere to the new EN 131 standards.
- The 31st December 2018, was the target transition date for the Ladder Association and reputable suppliers.

During the transition period, ladders certified to the previous version of EN 131, BS 2037 and BS 1129 could still be sold to enable suppliers to clear their stocks.

The new product standards do not apply retrospectively, therefore, existing ladders do not need to be replaced immediately if they are in good condition. The revision simply sets a new minimum, to ensure even the most basic DIY products are designed to be safer and more durable.

Ladders for industrial use

Those who require industrial use ladders should consider updating their purchase policies, to ensure EN 131 Professional ladders are specified when it's time to replace existing ladders or buy new ones.

Ladders for domestic use

Those who simply require ladders for domestic use (DIY), can look for products that fall under any EN 131 category (Non-Professional or Professional). Provided the ladder will only be used to complete DIY jobs, a Non-Professional ladder will be adequate. However, if there is a chance of using it in a business manner, purchasing a Professional ladder would be recommended.



What this means for you:

- Industrial ladders users should update their purchase policies
- Existing ladders in good condition do not need to be replaced
- Domestic ladder users can purchase any EN 131 product

Warning:

NO ladder can be CE marked. If you see a ladder that claims to have CE certification, do not purchase and highlight your concern to the seller and Trading Standards.

Frequently asked questions



Can I still use my existing ladders?

Yes, product standards do not apply retrospectively. Therefore, if they are in good condition, there is no immediate requirement to change your existing ladders.

Does this also apply to industrial use?

Yes. However, businesses should consider updating their purchasing policies to specify EN 131 Professional.

Can I buy a ladder with a CE Mark?

It is currently not possible to legally CE mark a ladder. If you see a ladder with a CE mark, steer clear and do not purchase it.

Do I need retraining to adhere to the new standards?

If you currently hold a Ladder Association LadderCard you do not need to retrain, as the current training is compliant with the new EN 131 standard.

Those using ladders in a professional environment will need to go through a training programme that equips them with the essentials on using, handling and storing a ladder safely.

Does every company have to change its ladders?

Ladders that are well maintained and in good condition do not need to be changed immediately, however, when businesses are looking to replace ladders, they should be purchasing products that adhere to the new standard; unless it's in the initial transition period where older products will still be available.

I'm self-employed, does this affect me too?

Yes, if you are using ladders and stepladders in a professional manner, you will need to take note of the new standards. You won't need to replace your ladders immediately if they are in good condition, however, when you get around to replacing your products, you will need to ensure they are compliant to the new standard.

How do I know if I'm buying the correct ladder?

It's always best to shop at a reputable company to ensure the products you're purchasing are of the highest quality. It's also good practice to check the specification, label and user instructions to check the product complies with the latest version of EN 131.

How do I ensure that my staff are using the correct equipment when working at height?

We recommend conducting a site audit that helps you to identify the most appropriate access equipment, and ensures you are using it safely. Arco offers a free site survey to businesses looking to audit their 'working at height' risk assessments.*

* Terms and conditions apply. Site audit is available subject to meeting specific criteria, speak to your local Arco representative to discuss. Site audit is subject to availability and may be withdrawn at any time.

Where to get help

Working at height carries a heightened level of risk and so it's essential that you have the right tools for the job. Arco is dedicated to ensuring the safe use and maintenance of access equipment to protect both work forces and those simply wishing to carry out DIY.

Arco Ladders

All EN 131 stepladder products available from Arco are fully compliant with the new regulations.

Site Audit

If you are concerned that your current products are putting you or your workers at risk, then you may want to consider a site audit. Arco offers businesses a free site survey for those wishing to audit their 'working at height' risk assessment.*

Arco's in-depth survey involves a thorough inspection of a site's 'working at height' activities with a view to identifying the most appropriate equipment for the task, and ensuring workers are using them correctly.

Contact us to book a free survey today.

Ladder Safety Training Courses

Demonstration of competence is a key requirement of the Working At Height Regulations and successful completion of a training course is proof of such competence. As such, Arco offer a number of Ladder Association courses.

The different courses on offer include a Ladder and Stepladder course, designed for frequent ladder users and a Ladder and Stepladder Inspection course, for workplace ladder maintenance.

For more information or to book your course, please contact Arco Professional Safety Services on 01482 611769, email info@arcoservices.co.uk or visit www.arcoservices.co.uk.

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Need more advice?

As the UK's leading safety company, Arco has a wealth of knowledge in the world of PPE and health and safety and is happy to help.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding the ladder standards, please visit www.arco.co.uk/access or www.arcosafety.ie/access.

Alternatively, contact our dedicated customer support team on **0330 390 2050** or email customer.services@support.arco.co.uk.

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Experts in Safety

Arco Limited
P.O. Box 21,
Waverley Street,
Hull HU1 2SJ



In UK
0330 390 2050 (local rate)
sales@support.arco.co.uk
www.arco.co.uk

Visit your nearest store,
find opening times, address detail and directions at
www.arco.co.uk/branchloc

In Ireland
01 409 5000
www.arcosafety.ie

Visit Arco Safety Centre Dublin
find more information at
www.arcosafety.ie/branchloc